



Children back marathon cyclist

THE Spastics Society, with the help of thousands of schoolchildren, will be backing marathon cyclist Ian Hibell as he pedals his way for seven months through seven African countries to raise funds for spastic people.

Ian is carrying with him an introduction and greetings from Lord Snowdon, President of the English IYDP Committee. Lord Snowdon writes of this expedition as a "... truly international event for the International Year of Disabled People."

Schools all over England and Wales will receive sponsorship forms tailored to fit the educational levels of the children involved, who will raise money for regional projects which the Society is financing in their areas.

Ian started his 7,200 km ride on September 1 in Quelimane, Mozambique, and will travel through Malawi, Zambia, Zaire, Congo and Gabon, ending in March at Yaounde, Cameroun.

Although Ian's major aim is to raise funds for spastic people at home, he will be sending regular reports on the needs and aspirations of handicapped people in African countries. His reports will be circulating to schools participating in the scheme to promote international involvement and understanding.

Ian Hibell is a cyclist of

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Mother appeals to Spastics News about her son's residential care



● MRS Jean Curtis, pictured with Duncan, wrote to Spastics News appealing for help because of her dissatisfaction over her spastic son's residential care placement.

No choice so - 'three years of torture'

IN the past month Duncan Curtis, a 19-year-old spastic youth, who is mentally retarded and epileptic, has absconded, drawn a knife on an old man, and attempted to burn down the training centre where he works. Senior management officials of Doncaster Social Services have his case under review but his parents believe it is the attitude of the Department in insisting on placing him locally that has led to Duncan's behaviour.

Mr John Curtis and his wife Jean, both aged 57, of Grasmere Close, Mexborough, wanted Duncan to go to the Society's Dene College after leaving Irton Hall School, also run by the Society, for further social training and education.

Instead Duncan was placed at Ravensfield Lodge residential hostel, Conisborough, and the adjacent training centre, just three miles from his home. That was three

years ago and, says Mrs Curtis: "From then we have had no piece of mind it's been three years of torture ... by placing him so near home they have created the problems we now have."

The most worrying — until this month — was his tendency to roam. Unable to cope with the freedom he is allowed he boards the bus that stops outside the centre, but then does not know what to do. As a result, on one occasion he was found wandering on a motorway. He was picked up by the police who returned him to the hostel. There, his parents alleged, he was deprived of all his clothes

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Stars set course for £100,000

THE line-up of players tee-ing up on the green at Moor Park, Rickmansworth, this month reads like the cast-list of every British and American serial and comedy show, for the Bob Hope British Classic Celebrity Pro-Am tournament is being staged from September 24-27.

With prize money of £100,000, 80 professional golfers including Tony Jacklin, Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle, Greg Norman and defending champion Jose Maria Canizares are expected to be partnered by a different amateur celebrity each day. Foremost of these are Bob Hope and Dickie Henderson, who was responsible for initiating the first classic last year, which raised £62,000 for The Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Bob Hope Theatre Foundation in Eltham.

They will be joined on the fairways by a strong American contingent—ex-President Gerald Ford, Clint Eastwood, David Soul, Peter Falk, Telly Savalas and Johnnie Mathis.

Equally well known are the British personalities—Jimmy Tarbuck, Eric Sykes, Ed Stewart, Dickie Davies, Henry Cooper, Terry Wogan, Sean Connery and Richie Benaud, among them.

So it should be a great time for golf-enthusiasts, autograph hunters and charity supporters — the aim of the game is to raise £100,000 this year.

With love from 'Blue Peter'

THANKS to young viewers of the BBC TV programme "Blue Peter" these children attending the Mary Sheridan Centre in Canterbury will enjoy even better facilities. For £1,000 from the £1,127,406.84 raised to date by the programme's appeal, administered by The Spastics Society has been presented by Director Tim Yeo to Dr James Appleyard, the centre's consultant paediatrician.

The money will be spent on opening up the centre's top floor to help spastic children like Susan Hart, aged three, on her mother, Jennifer's lap, Paul Woodman, aged three, with his mother, Gillian, and Benedict Watson, 16 months, held by his mother Martina. In the picture, too, is Benedict's twin brother, Geoffrey, who was not damaged by their premature birth.

More about the centre on pages 6 and 7.



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YOUNG OUTLOOK

WELCOME to Young Outlook, a page for children and young people, whether they are able-bodied or whether they are handicapped. We will record the activities of both, hoping to forge new understanding and perhaps go a little way to integrating ALL youngsters in this International Year of Disabled People.

We appeal to adults who might have strayed into these youthful columns, to PLEASE pass your copy of Spastics News on to a youngster, to a school, a youth club or organisation. Now—and in the future—we need their energy and enthusiasm.

Top marks for fund raising

THE youngsters at Brunner School, Billingham in Yorkshire don't need lessons on the subject of fund-raising. Indeed they could probably teach others a thing or two. For in just two terms the first year pupils raised £900 for the Cleveland Spastics Society's Work and Welfare Centre in Middlesbrough.

Local chairman Jean Kendall popped into the school to receive the cheque and said: "We are absolutely thrilled. It is the largest amount we have ever received from a school and we are presenting the pupils with a special shield for their efforts."

So top marks both for fund raising — and caring!

Host day

IF you are fed up at the thought of being back at school you might like to take a leaf out Silver Royd Girls' High School's book!

The school time table was ditched for a day and instead of maths and history there was disco, snooker, films and bingo. The reason they got away with it was because everyone from the head to the cleaners of the Leeds school were playing host to a party of local disabled people, including some from the spastics centre.

The guests got a day of varied entertainment and the whole school passed with flying colours the test of integration.

Hush money

THERE was a kind of hush all over Wolverhampton school recently — more than 100 pupils at Heath Park School sat in silence and they did it voluntarily.

With great stoicism the boys and girls aged between 11 and 14 held their tongues during their lunch breaks in order to raise money for the Society, and silence was indeed golden. For the "hush" money through the sponsored silence came to a resounding £300.



They are learning to understand

CHILDREN who are fortunate enough to be able-bodied obviously find great difficulty in understanding what it is like to be confined to a wheelchair. But the more imaginative of them make determined efforts to try and find out.

At South Crossland Junior School in Yorkshire, pupils have been trying to understand the problems of handicapped people, and Michael Bunch, aged 11, spent a day in a wheelchair to see how hard it can be to get around when you can't walk. Michael (pictured with Helen Garner, Kirsty Dyson, Lee McDonagh and Victoria Burnley), said: "It was all right for a day, but I would not like to stay in the chair for life."

Children at the school have spent a week looking at difficulties faced by the handicapped, and visited a welfare centre to see some of the appliances used there. They also ran a job week, which raised £112 for The Spastics Society and another charity.

"The important thing is that we are educating the children to have more understanding of the difficulties faced by disabled people," said headmaster Mr A. Wise.

Picture by Huddersfield Daily Examiner

One boy's "marvellous idea" helps another to "talk"

ALL through the school holidays, Lee Mansbridge has devoted every moment of his spare time to one goal — that come October John Brown will be able to "talk" and Basildon Spastics Society have backed him £100 to bring it off.

For Lee, a technology whizz kid at Chalvedon School, Pitsea, Essex is developing a mini-computer to help John communicate, with the grant from the Society. It will be worked by a unicorn head band and have a keyboard and

FORGOTTEN toys, discarded toys, grown-out-of - toys, packed-away-in-cupboard toys, too - good - to - throw-away toys, sad and lonely toys. Wouldn't you like to see them go to a good home where they will bring fresh enjoyment and pleasure to new owners?

The Spastics Society



thinks you will, and has launched a Lonely Toys appeal through its network of Spastics Shops, to gather up all those once-loved treasures and help them bring happiness to other children.

Happiness not just because new young owners will enjoy playing with YOUR toys but because the money raised by selling them in the shops will benefit spastic children. It's a lovely idea, isn't it?

Children have already shown what they can do this year with the success of the BBC TV Blue Peter appeal, administered by the Society, during which they showered Spastics Shops with goods for sale towards the massive sum collected. So the Society is confident that generous young supporters will not let them down over this new appeal.

First thing to do (after seeking out those neglected toys, of course!) is to look for the address of your nearest Spastics Shop, and the full list is printed below. If there isn't one in your town, surely you have parents or relatives who are travelling to the nearest shop and who would make a special delivery for you?

The Lonely Toys appeal will run from now until Christmas—and with all those new toys coming along then isn't it a good idea to clear your cupboards to make room for them?

Tell your parents and teachers about the appeal, and also your friends and neighbours, because the chances are that they would like to help. Perhaps you could get together and organise special collections in your school, youth club, or in your road?

When you take a toy

into one of the Spastics Shops you will be given a special Lonely Toy appeal badge—like the drawing here

ADDISCOMBE: 307 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon.

ANDOVER: 66 High Street, Hampshire.

ASHTON - UNDER - LYNE: 17 Delamere Street, Gt Manchester.

BARKING: 56 Longbridge Road, Essex.

BARKINGSIDE: 97 High Street, Essex.

BASINGSTOKE: 11/13 Flaxfield Road, Hampshire.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA: 39 Sackville Road, Sussex.

BINGLEY: 79 Main Street, Yorkshire.

BISHOPS STORTFORD: 1 Devils Lane, Hertfordshire.

BRIGHTON: 33 Gardner Street and 72 London Road, Sussex.

BURTON - ON - TRENT: 123 High Street, Staffordshire.

CAMDEN: 73 Camden High Street, London NW1.

CAMBRIDGE: 28 Fitzroy Street, Cambridgeshire.

CANTERBURY: Friars Corner, 11 St Peters Street, Kent.

CARLISLE: 43 Bank Street, Cumbria.

CATERHAM: 64 Croydon Road, Surrey.

CHATHAM: 113 High Street, Kent.

CHESTER: 115 Brook Street.

CLACTON - ON - SEA: 13 Rosemary Road, Essex.

CLEETHORPES: 60 High Street, Humberside.

COLWYN BAY: 79 Aber-gale Road, North Wales.

CROYDON: 23 London Road and 46/47 Whitgift Centre, Surrey.

DARLINGTON: 9 Skinner-gate, County Durham.

DARTFORD: 104 The Brent, Kent.

DORKING: 15a Dene Street, Surrey.

DUNSTABLE: 14 Albion Street, Bedfordshire.

EAST GRINSTEAD: 61/63 London Road, Sussex.

ECCLES: 2 Church Street, Greater Manchester.

EDGELEY: 85a Castle Street, Stockport, Cheshire.

ELTHAM: 2/4 Court Yard and 50 High Street, London.

FAREHAM: 139 West Street, Hampshire.

FOLKESTONE: 368 Cheriton Road, Kent.

GILLINGHAM: 82a/82b High Street and 17 Twydall Green, Kent.

GOSPORT: 17 North Cross Street, Hampshire.

GRANTHAM: 15 Wharf Road, Lincolnshire.

HACKNEY: 4 Morning Lane, London E8.

HALSTEAD: 27 High Street, Essex.

HARROGATE: 13 Beulah Street, Yorkshire.

HASTINGS: 22 White Rock, Sussex.

HATFIELD: 5 Market Place, Hertfordshire.

HAZEL GROVE: 197 London Road, Stockport, Cheshire.

HITCHIN: 5 Market Place, Hertfordshire.

HORLEY: 78 Victoria Road, Surrey.

HORSHAM: 7 North Street, West Sussex.

HOVE: 8 George Street, Sussex.

HULL: 169 Holderness Road, Humberside.

HUNTINGDON: 67 High Street, Cambridgeshire.

ISLINGTON: 6/8 High Street, London N1.

KEIGHLEY: 31 Cavendish Street, Yorkshire.

KILBURN: 236 High Road, London NW6.

LEEDS: 17 Roar Lane, Yorkshire.

LEICESTER: 163 Evington Road.

LEICESTER: 15/17 Rutland Street.

LETCHEWORTH: 30 The Broadway, Hertfordshire.

LEWES: 170a High Street, Sussex.

LEWISHAM: 7 Lewis Grove, London SE13.

MACCLESFIELD: 86 Mill Street, Cheshire.

NANTWICH: 28 Pillory Street, Cheshire.

NEWPORT: 15 Alway Parade, Gwent.

NORTHAMPTON: 22 Wellingborough Road, Northants.

NOTTINGHAM: 7 Trinity Walk.

OSWESTRY: 21 Cross Street, Shropshire.

PADDOCK WOOD: 91 Commercial Road, Kent.

PECKHAM: 93 High Street, London SE15.

PETTS WOOD: 1 Station Square, Kent.

REDCAR: 6 Bath Street, Cleveland.

RHYL: 3 Lyric Buildings, Market Street, Clwyd.

SEAFORD: 24 Chilton Place, Sussex.

SHEERNESS: 80 High Street, Kent.

SIDCUP: 5 Market Parade, Kent.

SITTINGBOURNE: 1 Roman Square, Kent.

SOUTHAMPTON: 132 St Mary's Street, Hampshire.

STOCKPORT: 2-4 Great Underbank, Cheshire.

SYDENHAM: 131 Sydenham Road, Kent.

TAUNTON: 2 Station Road, Somerset.

TONBRIDGE: 37 High Street, Kent.

TOTNES: 22 Fore Street, Devon.

WALSALL: 53c Lower Hall Lane, West Midlands.

WALTHAMSTOW: 210 High Street, London E17.

WELLINGBOROUGH: 25 Silver Street, Northamptonshire.

WEST MALLING: 48 High Street, Kent.

WEST WICKHAM: 103 Weybridge, Kent.

WIGSTON: 90 Leicester Road, Leicestershire.

WINCHESTER: 71 Parchment Street, Hampshire.

WINDSOR: 101 Peascod Street, Berkshire.

WOKING: 20 Chertsey Road, Surrey.

Stuck on us!

AFTER collecting stamps for a year for charity, the children in Miss Eva's class at the Harry Taylor First School, Reddich, Wores had no doubt where the gift should go.

When asked to choose between six charities Tina Harper explained: "Most of the people in our class put up their hands just to send these stamps to you — we hope you get something out of them and you are happy."

The stamps, nearly 700 of them, were sent to John Tough, the Society's Head of Marketing and he said: "We were absolutely delighted to receive the stamps and very touched by the charming letters. The children deserve a very big thank you."

The Society's AGM — day of facts, figures, votes, and decisions

THE most important day of the year for The Spastics Society is October 17, when delegates from all over the country gather in London for the Annual General Meeting.

Last year's meeting was overshadowed by the news of the Society's record financial deficit, but this year, Spastics News understands, the financial news will be more optimistic, with indications that the Society is "turning the corner," and if the trend continues, it could mean expansion in the future. This year's meeting is, therefore, a vital one, as the views of the delegates representing the Society's local voluntary groups will help to determine future strategy.

As usual, the agenda is full and varied. Guest speaker will be Sir George Young, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security, and there will be reports by the Chairman, Mrs Joyce Smith, and—an innovation this year—by the Director, Tim Yeo.

There are eight candidates for the six vacancies on the Executive Council, the Society's 15-strong governing body. Usually there are five seats, as members must stand down after three years' service and seek re-election, and the extra vacancy is due to the resignation of a member during the year.

Executive Council candidates



* Joyce Smith has been Chairman of The Spastics Society since June, 1980, and a member of the Executive Council since 1971. She is also chairman of the Salisbury and District Spastics Association, im-

mediate past-chairman of the Friends of the Douglas Arter centre, the Society's Regions Committee, the Salisbury Community Health Council, governing board of a secondary modern school, and vice chairman of Salisbury College of Technology and vice president of the Salisbury branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

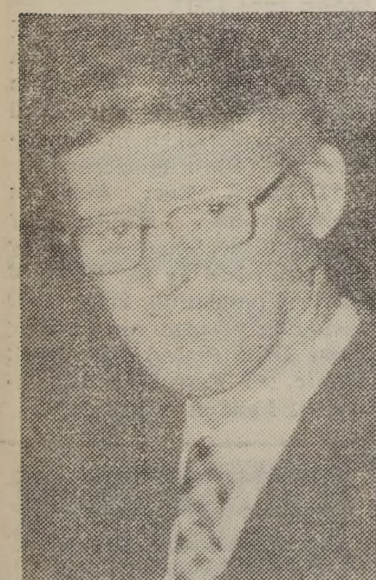
In addition, Mrs Smith, who lives at Alerbury, in Wiltshire, is the Council's representative on Wakes Hall and Good Neighbours House Management Committees, a member of Habinteg Housing Association, a past member of Wiltshire County Council and now co-opted as a member of its education committee serving on special education. Mrs Smith is also a JP.



Clement Wood, chairman of East Staffordshire Spastics Society of which he is

a founder member, and the Midland Regional Co-ordinating Committee, is standing for election to the Executive Council for the first time.

Mr Wood is a retired headmaster and lives at Rolleston on Dove, Burton-on-Trent, and is 60. A member of the Stephens working party on relations between affiliated groups, the regional organisations and the central society, which has now presented its report, Mr Wood is also a former chairman of East Staffordshire Social Services Committee and former member of Staffordshire County Council.



* Bill Huddleston is the Executive Council's Honorary Treasurer, ex-officio member of all committees and chairman and former vice chairman of the Finance Committee and member of the Manage-

ment Board. Aged 52 and a technocommercial manager, Mr Huddleston's sister was cerebral palsied, and his daughter is also cerebral palsied.

He lives at Eaglescliffe, Cleveland, and is chairman of the management committee of Cleveland Spastics Society's Work and Welfare Centre, member of the group executive and fund raising committee, and member of the North East Regional Committee. He became a member of the Council in 1978, and was appointed treasurer two years later.

Mr Huddleston is a trustee of Fosland Charity Cards, a member of the National Council of the Institute of Industrial Managers, governor of the local Technical College and a Methodist local preacher.



* Peter Rigby, aged 52, is a company director who has been on the Executive Council since 1975. He is chairman and founder of the Hornsey Centre for

Handicapped Children, and a co-founder of the Habinteg Housing Association.

Mr Rigby is Vice Chairman of the Society's Services Committee and a member of the Management Board. He was elected to Hornsey Borough Council in 1953 serving as Mayor 63-64, then a member of Haringey Council 64-79, leader of Council 1968-71, also member of Middlesex County Council 61-65, and a member of City of London Corporation since 1972. Mr Rigby numbers the chairmanship and membership of boards of various schools and governing and public bodies among his other activities.

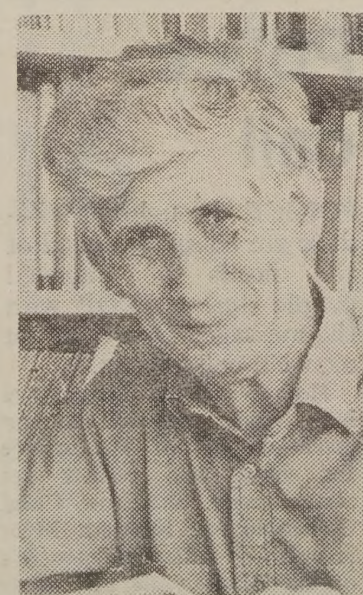


* Millicent Regan is the medical officer for the Merseyside Region of the Department of Health and

Social Security. She has served on the Executive Council for the last eight years, is chairman of the North West Regional Committee and a member of the Friends of Liverpool Spastics Society.

Dr Regan also serves on the Sefton Association of Mental Health, and is adviser to the governors of Melrose Special School and Ronald House. Her present appointment is concerned with attendance allowance and other social security benefits.

Dr Regan lives at Sefton and is a former general practitioner and Medical Officer of Health to Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.



* Ronald Firman, senior lecturer in geology at Nottingham University is 52, has been a member of the Executive Council for the last three years. A member of Nottingham Group committee, Dr Firman served on the Council's Services Commit-

tee between 1967-72 and was its vice-chairman from 70-72, and a member of the Public Relations and Fund raising committee from 78-80.

He has been on the executive of the '62 Clubs Association since its inception first as vice chairman, then chairman and president, and is on several Society working parties.

Dr Firman, who is cerebral palsied, founded the Nottingham '62 Club, the Portland Club for the Disabled, and the Nottingham University club for the disabled. He is an active member of several professional organisations and has professional contacts with industry and local authorities through his career as a researcher, lecturer and consultant geologist.

* Denotes retiring member of the Executive Council.



* Douglas Shapland was co-opted to the Executive Council in February this

year to fill the casual vacancy on the Council caused by the resignation of a member. He is now standing for formal election.

He was previously a member of the Services sub-committee and since March has been a member of the Services Committee. Mr Shapland is Director of Social Services for Haringey, a post he has held since 1970, and was chief welfare officer for the borough for the previous six years. He is 52 and lives at Grange Park, London.



Kenneth Coulbeck is vice chairman of the Mid-

land Regional Committee and hon secretary of South Humberside Spastics Society, vice chairman of Lincolnshire Spastics Centre's management committee, and has given 23 years of service to The Spastics Society.

Mr Coulbeck is 56 and a maintenance engineer living at Humberston, Grimsby, where he is chairman of Humberston Parish Council and a member of the management team of the Voluntary Service Bureau. He has experience of local government and social services.

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Briefing...

on books, aids, holidays, services,
to help you and your family

Handicap no bar to ski holidays

THE success of a skiing holiday for spastic people was summed up by one handicapped skier who said: "All my life I've been trying to keep up with other people — when you're on skis you can go as fast!"

Now bookings are being made available by the Uphill Ski Club for anyone over the age of 12 who is cerebral palsied or with a similar motor-impaired disability, at the Hotel Martina, St Johann in the Kitzbuheler Alps, Austria, from March 5-28.

There are two one-week holidays and two of a fortnight. The shorter ones are suggested for complete novices while the longer ones would suit those who have been on previous holidays. The hotel is next to the ski slopes with every kind of lift facility and a mountain railway, while the village of St Johann is nearby

with swimming pool, solarium, sauna, horse riding, ice skating rink, bowling alley, shops and restaurants.

Travel to and from London included in the holiday time and is by Supersnowcoach with film and coffee facilities. There is full board at the hotel and all rooms have private showers and wc. Ski hire, passes, daily tuition, instructors fees and expenses, specialised equipment and full holiday insurance are all included. All of which would be very much more expensive if it was not subsidised by the Uphill Ski Club. Price is £152 for a one week stay, and £227 for a fortnight's holiday.

However, it may be possible for the club to offer limited further financial assistance in certain circumstances, and anyone who thinks they may require such help can apply in writing when returning the completed application form. These are available from Roger Dyer, Co-ordinator, The Uphill Ski Club, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

It will be the sixth year these holidays have been organised and there are a full range of staff, professional instructors, skiers, helpers and medical staff on hand.

Dublin meeting

WORLD authorities on the training and management of children with cerebral palsy are to attend a conference at the Central Remedial Clinic in Dublin from October 1-3.

Given the title "Planning better education for the handicapped," the conference is a joint contribution to the International Year of Disabled People by the Clinic and the International Cerebral Palsy Society, and will be opened in the presence of President Hillery by the Minister of Education, who will also host a state reception at Dublin Castle.

Dr Maria Hari of the Peto Institute of Conductive Education, Budapest, will deliver a paper on Conductive Education, and other speakers will attend from London, Oxford, Sweden, Germany, France, Wales, the United States and the host country.

The opening speaker will be Dr Frances Connor, Chairman of the Department of Special Education, Columbia University, New York, who will speak on "The training of pre-school children with perceptual disorders and the importance of follow-up."

Those wishing to attend should contact Dr Ciaran Barry, Central Remedial Clinic, Vernon Avenue, Dublin 3, Eire. It is likely that a group will travel from England and details can be obtained from Anita Loring, Secretary ICPS, 5a Netherhall Gardens, London NW3 3RN.

The play's the thing as puppets fight prejudice

THE "KIDS on the Block" are three foot tall, wear ordinary children's clothing and shoes and suffer from blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy and Down's Syndrome and have come all the way from America to tour Britain.

They are a unique troupe of performing puppets created by Barbara Aiello, a former teacher of handicapped children and a consultant on special education.

She described the reasons behind the troupe: "First I want to teach children about handicaps in a non-threatening and unpreachy fashion. Secondly I want to show non-handicapped children how to develop positive relationships with their handicapped peers. The puppets show them how they can be friends".

She finds the disabled puppets are very helpful in helping disabled children learn to feel positive and unique about



themselves. The non-disabled puppets help the able-bodied child understand more. These puppets express many of the fears and concerns of the audience and provide a way for the handicapped child to deal with a situation.

For example says Barbara: "One puppet, Melody, expresses the fears of many a child when she blurts out, 'Gee Mark, I don't know if I should play with you. What if I catch cerebral palsy? My Mom would be really mad!' Also Mark has a 'normal' brother who talks about feeling jealous because Mark gets so much attention and how glad he is that he's not cerebral palsied."

The Kids on the Block arrived in Britain on August 20 and with no problems of jet-lag will visit, among other places, Norwich, Longleat, Oswestry, Burnley and North-

TWO of the unique "Kids on the Block" troupe of hand and glove, and hand and rod puppets created to help children gain a greater awareness of the abilities and needs of their handicapped classmates. In this scene, Ellen Jane, who has Down's syndrome, is working in a veterinary clinic.



Country living

REMPLOY, Britain's biggest employer of disabled people, is to enter the horticultural market with the co-operation and assistance of Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services Department.

The horticultural unit is to be established at Wisbech on an eight acre site. Initially the unit will produce vegetables and salad crops in poly tunnels both single and multi-span, together with outdoor winter vegetables.

Initially the unit will employ 12 disabled people and recruitment is expected to begin in late autumn.

Are you losing out on State benefits?

AS MANY as one-third of those entitled to attendance allowance may be failing to claim it. That is the conclusion of an article in the Disability Alliance's Summer 1981 Bulletin.

The article puts together the findings of four local studies of the take-up of benefits among disabled people. It suggests that the problem of take-up may be particularly serious among very old people.

The Summer 1981 Bulletin is the second of three which update the 1981 Disability Rights Handbook and provide welfare rights information of interest to disabled people. Its other major features are: **Holidays in the Sun.** If you are planning a holiday abroad, you may still be able to receive your benefit while you are away. The article gives

details of when this is possible.

Capital—the £2,000 Limit. You cannot normally claim supplementary benefit if your savings are over £2,000. However, some types of capital are ignored completely and there are also situations in which you could continue to get benefit even though your savings exceed £2,000. The article gives details.

The Summer Bulletin costs 90p including postage. It is available from the Disability Alliance, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL. The 1981 Disability Rights Handbook is still available, price £1.25 including postage. The Handbook provides a comprehensive guide to benefits and services for people with disabilities. Rights subscription (Handbook plus 3 bulletins)—£3.70 including postage. Bulletin subscription (3 bulletins)—£2.50 including postage.

Police call

POLICE throughout Wiltshire are being reminded of the needs of disabled people during IYDP with the message "Don't call on us, we'll call on you."

Home visits by officers have long been regarded as an essential part of the service for those who cannot get about easily, and now Chief Constable Mr Kenneth Myer is writing to disabled people's organisations with the home visiting message.

Police stations will also receive a list of all severely disabled people living locally—over 13,000 throughout the county—to ensure officers are aware of possible demand in their areas.

A police spokesman said disabled people could be assured of a speedy response to requests for help, which can be made by telephone, letter or message through a friend or neighbour.

MELODY James, one of the hand and rod puppets from the "Kids on the Block" getting the message across in an American classroom that the handicapped are "Like other people."

amptom, through the auspices of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

Though they may speak with a slightly different accent, their message is the same in any language — the disabled are people and the age group they are aiming at is the eight-12 year olds, because it is felt that that is the age when prejudices begin to form.

All about babies

A SERIES of five new films, "Having A Baby" has been produced by the Health Education Council. Each film, lasting between seven and 11 minutes, identifies the different stages that having a baby entails — from when pregnancy is confirmed, through to the reactions of parents and their feelings when the new baby is brought home.

The films, unusual in their comprehensive approach to the subject, aim to help prospective parents understand both the emotional and medical aspects of pregnancy, labour and postnatal care, and have been designed to stimulate and promote further discussion on these topics. They are primarily intended for use in parentcraft classes or antenatal sessions, where the audience will consist of mothers-to-be and their partners, and will be of value to professional health workers, such as midwives and health visitors. Some of the films are suitable for use in schools.

A booklet to accompany the series gives brief details about each film, its aims, how to promote discussion, and suggestions for discussion.

The films, in either 16mm or video, are available on free loan from the Central Film Library, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, or from Concord Films Ltd, 215 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich IP3 9BJ. Alternatively, the whole series may be bought for £325 (16mm film) or £175 (video tape) from the Supplies Department, Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1. Each film from the series may also be bought separately.

Getting to know you...

EACH year Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People receives hundreds of requests from schoolchildren and others for information about mental handicap. A new leaflet, "Meeting Mentally Handicapped People," has been produced as a response to these inquiries.

The leaflet not only provides some basic information about the nature of what we call "mental handicap" but, more importantly, it explains how you might go about getting to know someone with a mental handicap. This is the deliberate focus of the leaflet, because the best way to understand about "mental handicap" is to get to know a person who is mentally handicapped.

Single copies are available free (on receipt of an s.a.e) from CMH at 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Other orders from: CMH Publications, 8 Church End, Gamlingay, Sandy, Beds. 5p per copy and discounts on orders over 10.

Problems of Eve

"DISABLED Eve: Aids in Menstruation," is a report concerning the appalling difficulties facing severely handicapped women seeking independence in a most intimate bodily function, and which have received scant attention, and little if any mention in the training curricula of medical and nursing staff and other health care professions. References in professional journals are correspondingly scant.

The Disabled Living Foundation, in an attempt to meet a known need, was fortunate in receiving a generous grant from a charity which allowed the trustees to commission a study resulting in this report.

"Disabled Eve" contains substantial information regarding the way in which individuals have overcome or mitigated their difficulties and achieved a measure of independence. It is well illustrated with line drawings which should prove of great assistance to disabled people, their families and health care staff.

Details giving sources of supply are included, as is a chapter relating to future design work which it is hoped will be undertaken in Department of Bio-Engineering.

"Disabled Eve: Aids in Menstruation". Funded by the Multiple Sclerosis Society and published by the Disabled Living Foundation. Price £3.50 including postage and packing from DLF (Sales) Ltd, Book House, 45 East Hill, Wands-worth, London SW18 2QZ.

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SPASTICS NEWS

A special role for parents

THE tragic case of the Down's Syndrome baby given a life-saving operation against the wishes of her parents, raised many fundamental questions which have occupied the media ever since. That such an emotional minefield of a subject has been opened to public discussion is good (though it is unlikely that the opposing "right to live" and "better to die" camps have been influenced by the shrill opinions of the other). But throughout the debate, one important aspect was ignored: If the parents are to be called upon to make these terrible decisions, who is to advise them?

Advise them not only at the time of a baby's birth when some crippling handicaps are immediately apparent, but later, when earlier suspicions are confirmed, and a mother is told that yes, her child is not as other children, but is facing a life of severe handicap. The latter is usually the case with spastic children, indeed we frequently interview parents who did not learn that their child was cerebral palsied until a year or more after its birth, and certainly long after any delivery room decision might be made as to whether the baby was worthy of life or not. "Our" parents are, thank God, spared that awful choice, and the Society is spared from making any pronouncement on a subject which arouses such passions.

While matters of life or death do not concern us, the matter of advice and counsel does. The medical profession claims this duty for itself, but we feel it is one which must be shared with the people who can truthfully say to the parents of a handicapped baby — "We understand. We can tell you of the anguish and the unexpected joys, of the difficulties and the rewards, of caring for a handicapped child. We know, because we have been there before you, and this is how it is." They are, of course, other parents, and probably the only people truly qualified to understand the anguish of a mother reeling from the shock of discovering that her child is handicapped, and to give her the warm support and practical help she will need in the weeks, months and years ahead.

The Spastics Society pioneered such self-help groups of parents (it was indeed started by a self-help quartet!), and has encouraged its local volunteers to forge a close relationship with hospitals and GPs so that "new" parents are informed of the existence of non-professional but expert people ready to help and inform. Some doctors welcome this vital support, others reject it, and some display a callousness which is beyond belief. While this was being written, a mother telephoned the Society's HQ to say that she has just received a letter from a doctor baldly informing her that her child was spastic. The news was curtly coupled with the date of an appointment to see a paediatrician. Fortunately, a neighbour advised her to call the Society, able to help both nationally and locally, and soon she was in touch with other parents who could guide her through this sudden, unknown and frightening world of handicap.

Nobody will dispute the doctor's right to clinical judgements, but when it comes to advising parents, he must be prepared to share the burden with those whose first hand experience of handicap can prove invaluable. And long-established voluntary groups must always look kindly on the self-help "fringe" who see charity work as much more than committee meetings and coffee mornings.

'Quality of life' award for IYDP

AN award scheme with prizes of £1,000 for the most interesting projects to enhance the quality of life for disabled people, has been announced by the Minister for the Disabled, Mr Hugh Rossi, as a contribution to International Year of Disabled People.

It will be open to all national, regional and local voluntary organisations, for projects organised since 1978, either independently or in association with other bodies.

"Disabled" here includes people who are physically handicapped, deaf or hard of hearing, blind or partially sighted, speech impaired, mentally handicapped or mentally ill. It also includes handicaps such as epilepsy and psoriasis, and disabilities linked to ageing.

To avoid overlap with existing award schemes, projects solely concerned with employment, housing or education are excluded. Competition entry form and rules from IYDP, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

Where secure, happy children so obviously enjoy learning

Canadian mother, Mrs Linda Hickey, came to England to spend a term with her son at The Spastics Society's unique Conductive Education Unit at Ingfield Manor School. This is her story...

I FIRST heard about Conductive Education and the Peto Unit at Ingfield Manor, back in Canada through a physiotherapist who was assigned to my son, John. She suggested I write to the school for more information. The outcome of our correspondence over a period of a few months was an invitation to work on the Unit for a school term, and much to my delight, that John would be welcome as well.

The reactions from friends, family and those involved with John's therapy were mixed — most expressing scepticism on taking him out of school for three months to a virtually unknown programme. However, the genuine interest and concern expressed in the letters received convinced me that the opportunity was worth exploring.

I arrived at Ingfield with some strong feelings against residential placements for young children but determined to keep an open mind and objectively assess the appropriateness of the programme to young children in a home setting.

Within a few hours of our arrival those feelings were put to rest as I saw a group of secure, happy children so obviously enjoying learning to do things independently, encouraged and directed by a team of warm enthusiastic people.

The most outstanding feature of the Conductive Education approach is that the children are actively and totally involved in their programme.

In the course of a day there are unlimited opportunities that children use to learn how to co-ordinate their movements in the course of growing up; dressing, eating, using a pot, playing, etc. In other approaches these activities are often done for the handicapped child, the emphasis put on individual therapy sessions at other times.

In Conductive Education these daily routine things are carefully structured to teach and practice basic body posture to enable the child to do these tasks independently. "Therapy" is not isolated from daily activities and every minute becomes quite naturally a perfect learning opportunity.

The atmosphere is one of positive encouragement, not only when dealing directly with the children but also in the planning and discussion that goes on continuously.

As a parent I was greatly impressed with the positive attitude and common sense, which I feel is a major point in success. At the risk of sounding



sentimental, I do feel that what we have learned and experienced in these past three months has in fact opened many new doors and we now look forward to a much brighter future. It is high time the Unit

and the people involved with it receive some well deserved recognition for the marvellous work they are doing with so much dedication. I hope, in time Canada will boast its own Unit.

THE ladderback chairs and plinths are essential to the unique method of Conductive Education. Our picture shows a teacher and pupils using the method at the Conductive Education Unit.

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● A FAMILY home turned chest clinic turned local authority diagnostic and treatment centre for children up to the age of five. Paid for by the NHS, it depends on local goodwill for extra facilities.



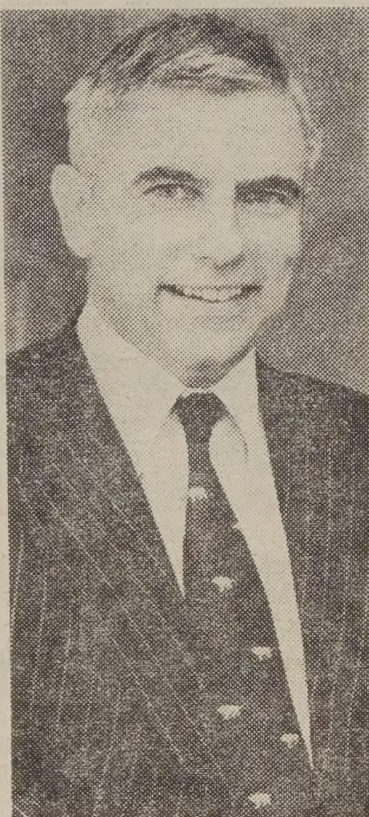
● NURSE Barbara Owen works part time at the centre, and here Paul Woodman gets a cuddle as she introduces him to a toy which will help him co-ordinate shapes.



● LUCY Taylor was a social worker who didn't want to go back to social work — instead she works on a one-to-one basis with Kim Vinnicomb. "As my own children are grown up I rather like coming here and playing with small children again." She got the job when she saw an advert asking for volunteers.



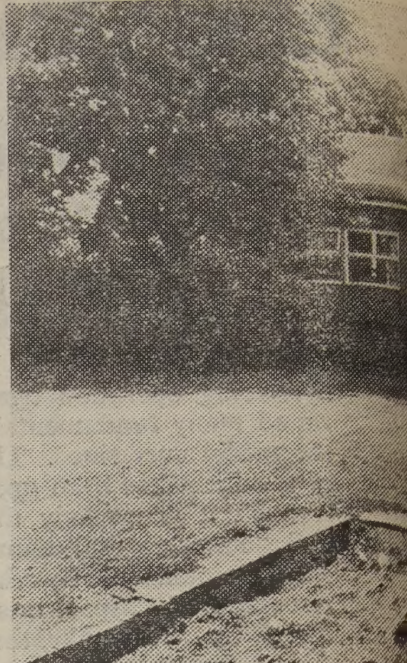
● JENNIFER Santer trained locally to teach infants and specialised in the slow learner, and is proud of the fact that many of the children in her nursery class will be able to attend normal schools, despite their disabilities.



● DR James Appleyard describes himself as "shy, retiring and reticent by nature," and has been running the centre with enormous energy and enthusiasm since opening it in 1972. He is a member of the British Medical Association Council, deputy chairman of its central committee for hospital medical services, a member of the paediatric sub-committee, and a member of the British Paediatric Association.



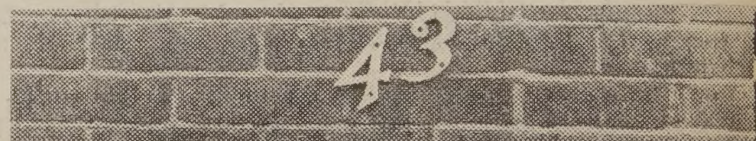
● DR Barbara Armstrong is Dr Appleyard's deputy and he describes her as "the heart of the centre." She is the senior clinical officer and assesses the children referred on arrival.



● NOT all the "treatment" and a wide green lawn, for one reason or other,

State service with a homely touch

Rewards of help mothers care for their child



Canterbury and Thanet Health District

MARY SHERIDAN CENTRE

● FOR almost a decade the Mary Sheridan Centre has been the focus of hope for parents learning from their doctor that there is something wrong with their child.

comfortable and homely atmosphere in marked contrast to the clinical severity of a hospital out-patients' department.

And this in turn can reassure the nervous mother whose child has been referred to the centre by her local doctor. "We see children from a few weeks old, but it can be very hard on a mother bringing in a tiny baby when she might not have had time to come to terms with the fact something's wrong with her child.

'Our cases'

"With a catchment area of $\frac{1}{2}$ million we get some really very interesting cases referred to us. Specialists come down from centres of excellence like Guy's Hospital and we assess the child to see if it needs tertiary care."

At present there are some 800 children on the centre's register, but some are only seen occasionally while others attend the playgroup up to three times a week. The teacher, Jennifer Santer, explained: "We have such pressure of numbers—between 60 and 70 children—that we

can't see them every day, and also it is important for the under-fives to mix in ordinary able-bodied toddler groups, too."

Specialist

As well as specialist clinics once a month, there are regular sessions conducted by the team of speech therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists. In addition there are nurses, the teacher, and plenty of local volunteers. Funding comes from the community and the variety of specialist advice and treatment means that there are very few requests for second opinions and consultations at Great Ormonde Street Children's Hospital.

One of Dr Appleyard's

● BENEDICT and his brother were two months premature and Benedict spent three months in intensive care. Here the Centre's nurse, Pam Driscoll, helps him focus attention on a toy — all part of the learning pattern.

NUMBER 43, New Dover Road, Canterbury, started life as a large family home, was converted into a chest clinic, and now serves a population of $\frac{1}{2}$ million people with a unique blend of help, expertise, understanding and hope.

It is the Mary Sheridan Centre founded by Drs Ronald McKeith and Mary Sheridan in 1972 for what is now the Canterbury and Thanet Health District, and run since it first opened its doors by Dr Jim Appleyard. A tall, soft spoken consultant paediatrician, he claims to be: "A shy, retiring and reticent person who has electively gone out to be a fundraiser."

Money

His skill at diagnosing how to draw money out of local and national charities is testified to by the extensions and equipment at the centre.

In fact an extension was built by The Spastics Society and last month Tim Yeo, the Director, presented £1,000 from the BBC TV "Blue Peter" appeal which the Society administered. The money will go towards making the second floor of the centre usable—all the available space downstairs has already been used and developed.

Comfort

"The rather spartan bits of furniture date from when we acquired the place as a chest clinic, and much of the residue has come from jumble sales," said Dr Appleyard. All of which adds to the centre's



to be carried out inside the centre's walls, it and rocking horse all help children who, been diagnosed as handicapped.



FIONA Sampson is 19, has always wanted to work with children, and she comes to the centre as a voluntary helper. She is working with Justin, nearly five, whose mother, Dianne Hogben, is pictured with his sister Kelly. Susie Hart is helped by her mother Jennifer.

ng r en

ular bug-bears is that child referred to the gets the same fund- automatically—there- one child with one icap significant h to warrant referral, as the same cash" as ild suffering from multiple handicaps will require far r specialist attention.

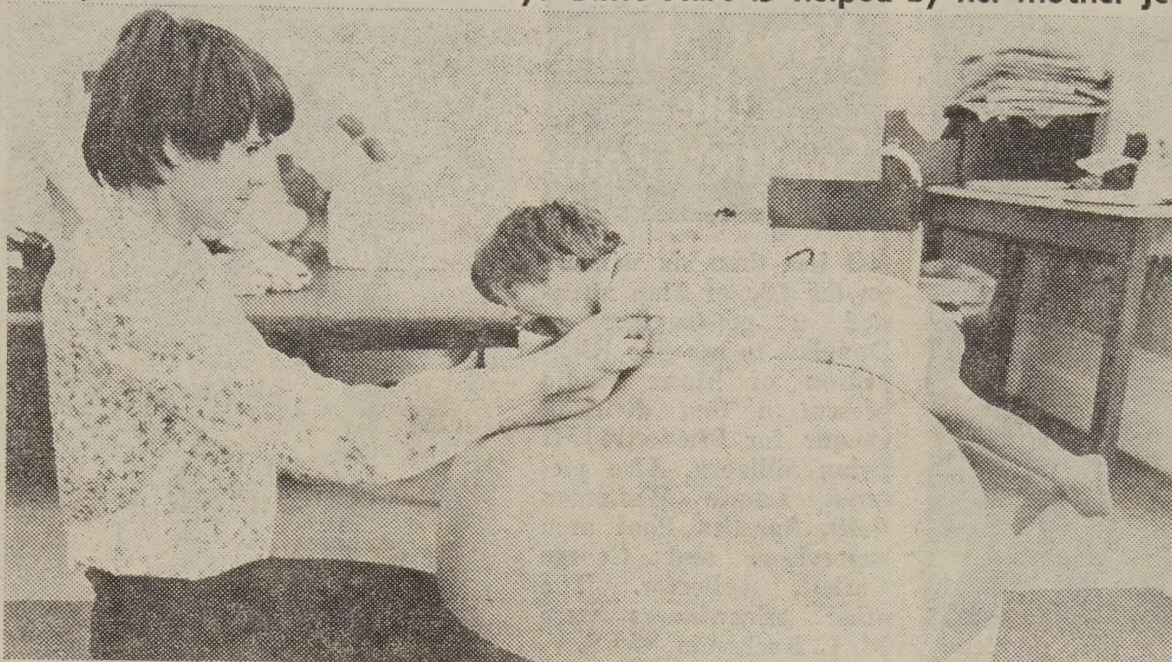
Tribute

ough the centre is or by the National Service, Dr Apple- pays grateful tribute support it receives from charities at a al and local level he goodwill of local e. He admitted: "We ouldn't exist without involvement and And we do involve mmunity as much as le. The parents help d we have a one-to- atio with the child-

summed up the ophy behind the in this way. "Our im is to help the r care for her child— et the reward from



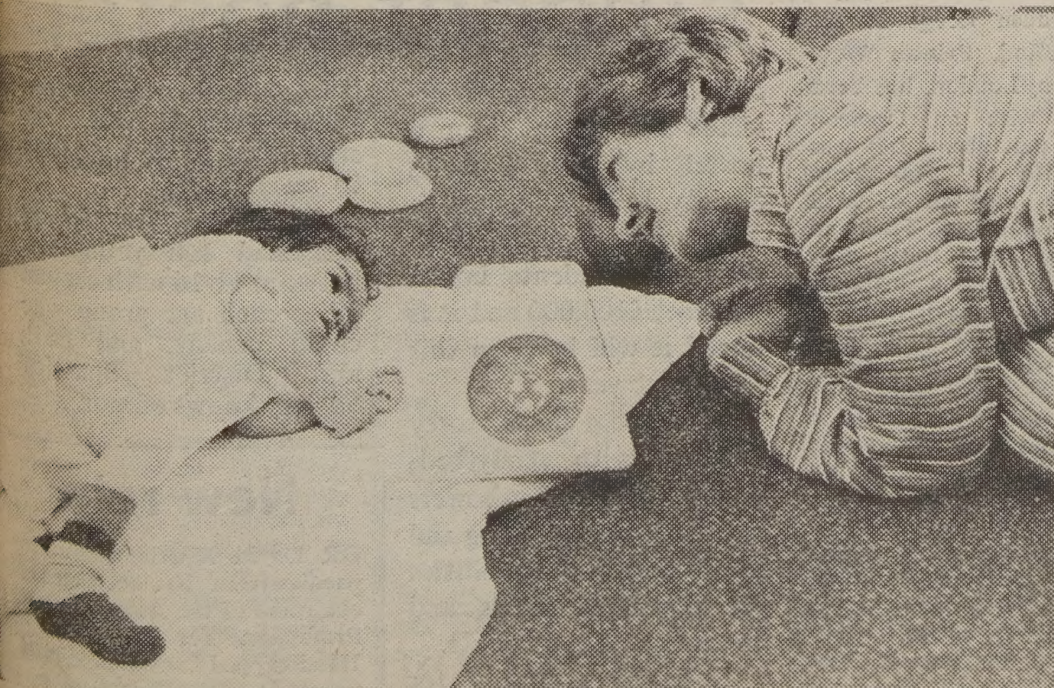
● MARTINA Watson attends the centre with her sons Benedict and Geoffrey.



● ISOBEL Johnson is the centre's physio-therapist and here she helps Susan exercise on the huge ball. Susan's mother had no idea she was expecting twins, and Susan arrived 1½ hours after her sister Samantha. Right from the start Susan's parents knew their daughter was handicapped — "and I think that helps," said her mother Jennifer.



● MAY Ingles and Jo Barker are classed as "hos-pital domestics," but as "Auntie Barker," as she's known to the children, said: "You get so involved with the place we're part of the team. We're interested in the children and we love it." They put out the lunches for the children for whom eating can be part of learning to speak.



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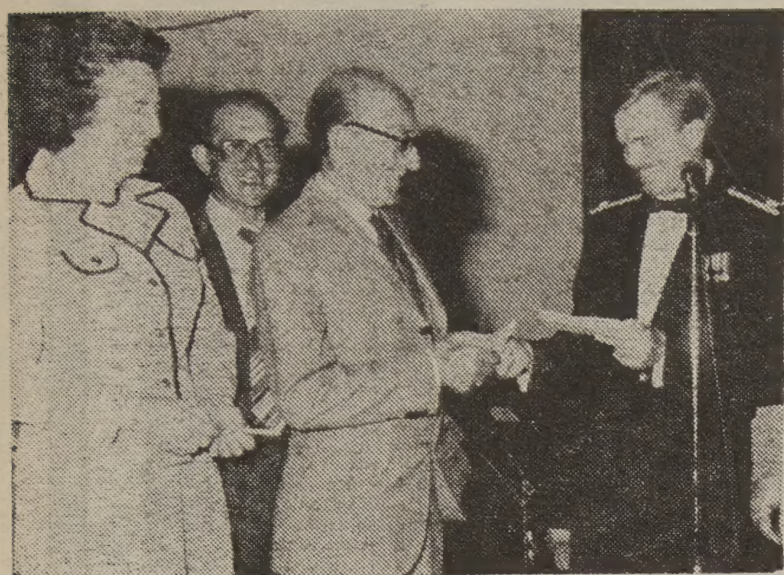
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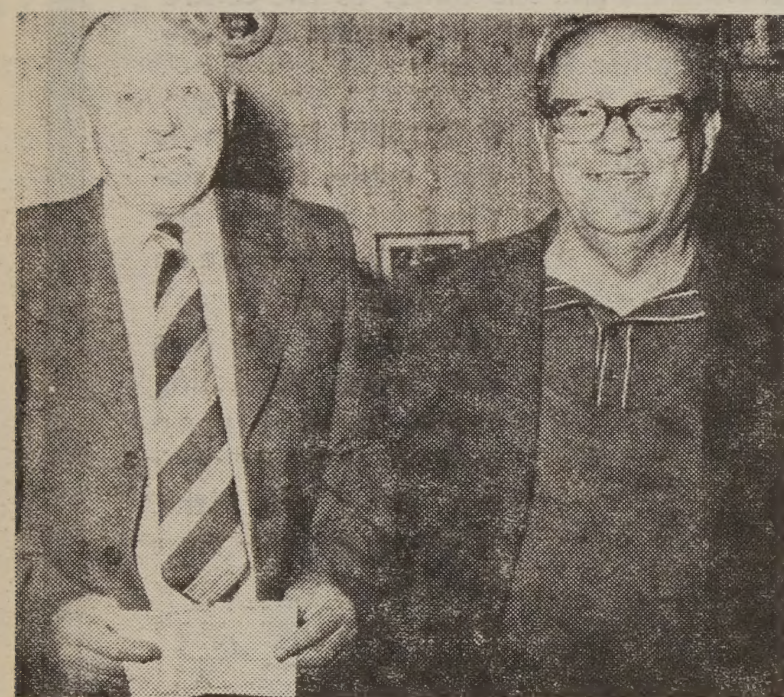
MR L. Jarvis, of Fotherby, Louth, was very definitely in the mood to collect a first dividend cheque for £3,333 from Lt Col Robert Kuzminski, commander/conductor of the United States Air Force Band which was formerly the famous Glen Miller Band. Also pictured Pool collector Mrs Phyllis Blakey and area supervisor Mr Brian Miller.



MRS Violet O'Brien, of Stenhousemuir, receiving a first dividend cheque for £796.24 from area supervisor, Mrs S. H. Kerrigan, watched by collector Mr H. Whitelaw. Mrs O'Brien, who has two children, is involved in caring for senior citizens through Mobile Emergency Care.



A BROAD smile from Richard Mattocks, of Rainham, as he receives his Spastics Pool first dividend cheque for £3,333 from the Mayor of Gillingham, Councillor H. Blease, and the Mayoress. Mr Mattocks is married with two children and is employed by a local firm of solicitors. Presentation arrangements were made by Spastics Pool area supervisor Mr R. M. George.



THE Mayor of Pembroke presented a first dividend cheque for £3,333 to Mr Fred Dickens, of Stackpole. Pictured with him is Mr Branton Fish, area supervisor for the Pool.

News about the Spastics Pool

NO less than six winners on the Isle of Man attended a get-together at Douglas, to see Sue Richardson of Manx Radio present a first dividend cheque for £1,666 to Mr Brian Sillicorn. Also pictured Laurie Watterson (left), Spastics Pool area supervisor, and George Corlett, collector. The other prizewinners were Mr L. Buchanan, Mrs S. V. Hamilton, Mrs J. Colquitt, Mrs E. G. Moore, Mrs A. Kelly.



MR Len Patten, of Bridport, Dorset, was delighted he entered the Spastics Pool Spring '81 competition. He won the first prize of a Ford Fiesta Popular. Picture shows, from left to right, Lady Diana Broad, Mrs Valerie Kirby, supervisor, Mr L. Patten, Mr Maurice Gooding and Mrs Rosemary Page, collector. There will be a further opportunity to win a car, a Mini Metro, in the Autumn '81 competition.

Battle of the sexes nets £500

USUALLY Watford BK Sports and Social Club stage a comic football match to raise money for charity. This year they changed the sport to netball and the net result was a record sum of £500 donated to the North Watford Spastics Centre. It was a men versus women effort with players ranging from 17 to 60, and after some spirited but harmless cheating the men were able to claim victory by seven goals to five.

Aid from Trust

MICHAEL Ferguson, a pupil at the Linden Lodge School for the Blind, Princes Way, Wimbledon, London, has been presented with an Optacon reading machine. It was bought with a £2,200 donation from the Bristol-based Good Neighbours Trust in memory of Peter Jones, who was South London manager for the Spastics Charity Football Pool, and it was presented by his widow, Mrs Beryl Jones.

Also present were Mr Brian Payne, chairman, Electronic Aids for the Blind, Mr F. C. Matthews, headmaster, and Mr Chris Robson, regional manager for the Spastics Pool. The school has 80 pupils and an appeal has been launched to purchase six Optacons.

The Good Neighbours Trust was established in the early 1960s by Top Ten Promotions Limited.

Society builds student hostel

SCHOOL leavers in wheelchairs are being given a hostel by The Spastics Society, to be built next to Trowbridge College, Wiltshire. The students' hostel will cost £100,000 and it is hoped it will be open this time next year.

It will be a single storey building with study-bedrooms, adapted showers and bathrooms, dining and hobby areas and facilities for preparing meals and snacks for 10 students.

Designed primarily for students who need some help but not full-time care

it would be in use five days a week although with extra staff it could be extended to seven days.

One survey has already identified 168 youngsters between 11-16 with around 30 in each age group who could benefit, and Bath and District Spastics' Society knows of more.

New role

DR David Morris, consultant paediatrician, has been elected chairman of the Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped for the next three years. It is the first time that a paediatrician has taken on this role.

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This is my life

by Alie Davids

ALIE Davids is a 14-year-old Dutch spastic girl, severely handicapped, but with a gift for words which has already brought her to the attention of the people in her own country. A book of her writings about her life, and what it is like to be disabled, has been published by the Dutch Cerebral Palsy Union, and the officials there told Spastics News about it because "we think this may be interesting to English spastic children." We think all readers — whatever their age — will find Alie's work not only interesting, but heart-warming, too.

TO BE DISABLED

WHAT it is like to be disabled. It is difficult for me to explain. To you it seems awful to be disabled. I don't mind very much because I don't know what it is like to be able to walk. You must not say: "I am disabled and I am so pitiful." Because that doesn't help you. You have to say: "All right, I am disabled, that cannot be helped, and I must make something out of it." That is how I think about it, but you may think differently about it, but that is how I think about it. Why do people think that when you are disabled, that you are also mentally deficient ?????????!!!!!! That is where I have problems, when I go to the village with someone and I buy something then they tell the person who is with me what the price is. They have to tell me that, don't they, but no, they think right away that you are crazy. Then I think, they don't know better. That is a problem.

WHEELS

WHEN I had been here for three years, then we had a talk with Doctor Voerman, then he said, I wouldn't know what kind of wheels Alie must have. When I was eight, then they were teaching me to practise in electric wheels. I have been practising for a year, but it worked after all. And after that to order electric wheels, that lasted a year. It is a shame, but it is like that. And then, one day, my

therapist said: "I have a present for you." I thought a book or something like that. And then there was a beautiful electric wheelchair. That was an improvement. I could go everywhere by myself. You cannot understand how happy I was. If you are in a prison, and you get out, then you are also happy, that is how I felt.

Pronunciation

THE letters I can say are these: a, b, d, e, h, j, i, l, n, m, p, o, w, t, u, h, ci. These were the letters I can say. The letters I cannot say are these: c, g, r, s, k, v, f, g, z, there are they. Now I will explain how I pronounce them. The c, I don't pronounce. The g, I don't pronounce, for example DIG, then I say DI. The r, I pronounce it as a j or as an e. The s, I don't pronounce, for example mouse, then I do MOU. The k, I do not always pronounce it, if the word begins with a k, then I pronounce it, if the word ends with it then I don't. The v, I don't pronounce, for example vein, then I say EIN. The f, I don't pronounce. The z, I don't pronounce. Those were all of them.

MY BIRTH

MY name is Alie Davids. I am a twin, at birth I weighed five and a half pounds. My brother weighed six and a half pounds. I was born by Caesarean operation, and then they put me in a little oxygen tent. They could only look at me, I was not allowed outside the oxygen-tent, only when mummy had to feed me. My mother couldn't go home, because I couldn't go home. After three weeks we could go home. At home there was also a nurse, who helped mummy. And in this way a year went by. When my brother was a year old, then he could already walk a little bit, and I couldn't, only then they discovered that I was not well. Then I had to go to all sorts of doctors, but one of them said "Alie is not crazy." Then mummy had to go to hospital twice a week for practising, and then my therapist went on holiday, then there came another person, and that was Doctor Voerman, and he said that I had to go to Lyndensteyn, and that's how I came to live at Lyndensteyn.

AT LYNDENSTEYN

WHEN I heard that I had to come and live at Lyndensteyn, then I felt funny, because then you don't know what you had to do, for if you are used to living with five people and then suddenly with a hundred people around you that is quite a different thing. I had to grow familiar, so at first I didn't improve at all. I almost left again because I didn't improve. I could do nothing at all, only lie on my belly, and cry... that I could do very well. But apart from that I could do nothing. After two years I could already sit a little, that was quite an improvement at that time. I am an athetoid child, that is if you cannot control your muscles. If you pick up a pen you do it at one go, but I do it by a roundabout way; if you raise your leg you succeed, but with me it doesn't happen, do you understand now what athetosis is? ...

SCHOOL

I ALSO go to school, just like any normal child. I take five subjects which are: language, arithmetic, biology, geography, history, on the level of the fifth or sixth form. I have an adapted typewriter. Now you may wonder, what is an adapted typewriter, I will explain now. When you are walking outside on a street you will see a gully-hole, in which the rain goes, there is a grating on top of it, because otherwise you could fall into it. There is also such a grating over the keys of my typewriter, and I also have a little bench on which I can put my arm.

Advantages and disadvantages of being at Lyndensteyn.

WHAT are the advantages or disadvantages of my being at Lyndensteyn. I myself don't mind very much that I am at Lyndensteyn. Of course, I would rather have been at home with my father and mother, but that cannot be helped. If I wouldn't be at Lyndensteyn and I would simply be at home, then I wouldn't have written this book, because then I could have done nothing. At home I cannot go to school and also I cannot go to therapy as much. I don't have any children to play with, at Lyndensteyn I do have that. All of them are disadvantages, if I would be at home, I would enjoy being with my father and mother and with my family. Then my father and mother could bring me up themselves. I like it a lot better at home. Yet I am very glad that I

am at Lyndensteyn. Sometimes I also think: "Bah now I have to go back to Lyndensteyn." That is also difficult for my father and mother. But I come home every weekend, and also during holidays.

Society has a 'message' for Party Conferences

VITAL topics affecting the lives of Britain's handicapped will be the focus of attention at fringe meetings organised by The Spastics Society in conjunction with 10 other major charities at the annual party political conferences and the TUC conference.

Employment will be the subject discussed at the TUC fringe meeting at the Claremont Hotel, Blackpool on Wednesday, September 9, at 5.30 pm. Chaired by Marie Patterson, National Women's Officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, the speakers will be Joe Marino, General Secretary, Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, and Bert Massie, executive assistant to the Director of RADAR.

At the Liberal Party Assembly, the meeting chaired by Lord Banks starts at 9.30 pm, September 17, at the Marine Hotel, Llandudno, where Poverty and Disability, benefits and Services will be the subjects discussed by Clement Freud, MP,

Liberal spokesman on Social Services, Alan Walker, secretary, Disability Alliance, and Bernard Brett, of the Alliance's steering committee.

Jo Anderson, MP, chairs a panel of fellow MP's Jack Ashley, Chairman of the All Party Disablement group, Lewis Carter-Jones and Alf Morris, ex-Minister for the Disabled, at Brighton's Hotel Metropole, 5.30 pm on September 28 where the issues are prevention of mental and physical handicap including social and environmental aspects.

Tim Yeo, the Society's Director, will speak on VAT and its crippling effects on the Society's finances, at the Conservative Party conference fringe meeting on October 14 at 12.30 at the Claremont Hotel, Blackpool.

The meeting is being chaired by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, and the other panellist is John Hannam, MP, secretary of the All-Party Disablement Group.

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ZIMBABWE: Vacancies for physio- and occupational therapist. To contribute to a training course for rehabilitation assistants who will provide basic physiotherapy and other rehabilitation services to disabled people. The work will involve the teaching of the trainee assistants, supervising their clinical experience, and assisting in evaluation and examination. Experience in teaching and supervising practical and clinical work is an advantage. The occupational therapist should have an orientation towards vocational training and community services. Two-year contracts; return fare to the UK; equipment allowance before leaving; mid-term grant and a resettlement grant on termination of contract; medical insurance; language training and orientation. All CIIR personnel earn basic salaries which relate to local rates. Write to: CIIR Overseas Section, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1, 487 4397, for further information, sending full details of your previous experience.

Public transport for disabled people YOU CAN GET THERE —if you live in the right place!

THE North West Region of The Spastics Society has been especially concerned about transport for disabled people since 1977. In that year it set up a working party into facilities for disabled people in Greater Manchester, and the subsequent report "Can I Get There? — public transport options in the 1980's for people with disabilities," was published in 1979. The report has been widely acclaimed, and is now in its fifth printing. Requests for copies have come from three continents, and the original working party has expanded and become ADAPT, Action on Disabled Persons' Transport, which the North West Region sponsors.

The report found that a lack of accessible public transport facilities meant that some disabled people were housebound, and others dependent on relatives and friends for leisure journeys; the report argued that availability of accessible transport was essen-

tial if disabled people were to lead full, independent lives.

A number of recommendations were made including the fact that central government "must confer clearly defined and stated responsibilities on public transport operators to ensure provision is made for all disabled people." The report advocated that buses be made accessible to the ambulant disabled, and that supplementary demand responsive door-to-door services using adapted minibuses be set up. The report also drew attention to the inadequacy of "minibuses/ambulances," which were based on van chassis, and advocated that a totally new purpose-built wheelchair-accessible minibus be built.

The working party was particularly influenced by door-to-door services operating in Sweden and in the French city of Nancy, as well as by small British "wheelchair taxi" scheme, using a converted minivan, run by the voluntary organisations Edinburgh Voluntary Transport. Finally, the report referred to the new taxicab being designed to replace the current London taxi and recommended that it be made wheelchair accessible.

It is gratifying that two years after the report was pub-

AN international investigation by NIGEL SMITH, senior regional officer, North West Region, The Spastics Society, and hon secretary ADAPT (Action on Disabled Persons' Transport).

lished, many of the working party's ideas have become accepted by people involved in the field of public transport facilities for disabled people. Recent international conferences and exhibitions in Edinburgh and Cambridge have demonstrated not only European advances, but also developments in urban transport facilities for disabled people in Britain.

Telebus

IN Europe, the outstanding development of the past three years has been the Telebus scheme in West Berlin. Telebus is an action research project, funded primarily by the West Berlin government, with back-up funding from the Federal government. An estimated 10,000 West Berliners are so severely handicapped that they cannot use public transport, and the objective of the Telebus project is to enable them to participate in the life of the city.

There are five objectives to enable the research project to reach its goal, and in simple language these provide for the development of a door-to-door, demand responsive (computer controlled) system of wheelchair accessible minibuses, which will become part of West Berlin's municipal transit system in 1982, and which will form the model for the establishment of special transport systems in other cities. Integral to this is the development of purpose-built vehicles tailored to the needs of disabled people. These objectives almost parallel the recommendations

some such as Goteborg and Malmo allow unlimited use, while others including Stockholm restrict the number of journeys allowed. Use has been continually rising, and the Swedes feel it takes seven years for the optimum usage figure to be reached.

The cost of the service to the user varies, but in Stockholm, for example, each journey costs about 50p. Users have a special "credit card" and are billed monthly, and there is a price ceiling of £8, the cost of a monthly public transport season ticket in Stockholm County. Nationally, the total extra cost of providing transport for all disabled people is about £50m, and as economic recession has now hit Sweden, there are fears that economies will be sought, either by reducing the number of permit holders or by

transportation providers in the USA have adopted different attitudes towards this, ranging from the very positive of authorities such as Seattle where they are completely re-equipping with lift equipped buses, to the reverse in Birmingham, Alabama, which has abandoned bus operations rather than comply with 504.

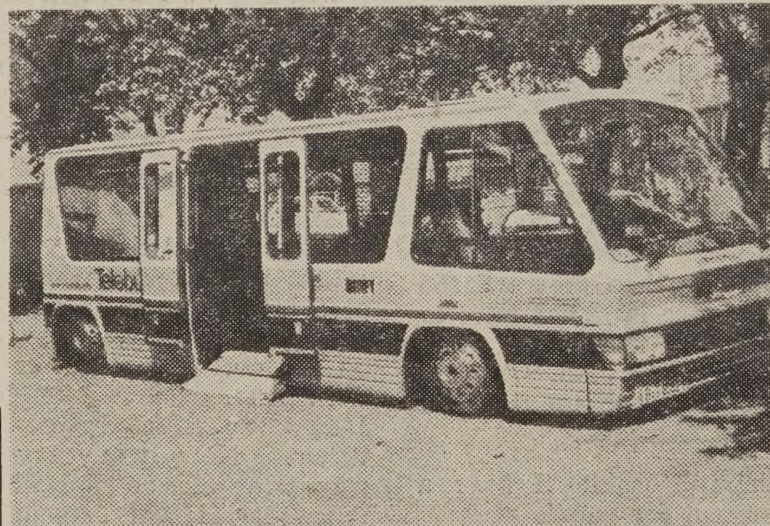
There is no doubt that 504 has caused headaches for operators, not least because of the unreliability of lifts as well as cost. However, the Court of Appeal has recently overruled the lower court's upholding of the earlier interpretation of Section 504, and it is felt that the Reagan administration will not challenge this. This may mean that bus operators can choose between making ordinary buses wheelchair accessible or operating dial-a-ride services.

Britain

FIVE developments in Britain stand out.

First, Carbodies Ltd has redesigned its replacement London taxi prototype so that a wheelchair-fast passenger can enter by a retractable ramp, and sit in the chair for the journey. The taxi is due to enter production in 1983 and will become increasingly important to disabled people as they gradually replace the current vehicles.

Second, there are now more buses on the road which are accessible to a larger number of ambulant disabled people.



THE West Berlin Telebus above, and pictured below, the rear entrance for wheelchairs.

made in "Can I Get There?"

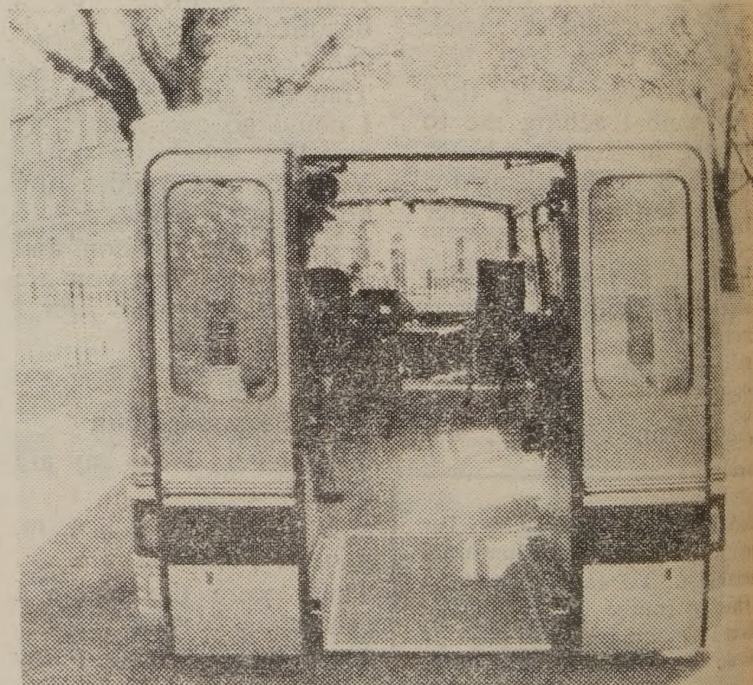
A number of prototype vehicles were built, and after tests the contract was awarded to Neoplan, whose vehicle is illustrated. The vehicle lowers its suspension to ground level, and disabled passengers can propel themselves on to the vehicle. Alternatively, a pavement-height side entrance flap can be used. The vehicle was on show at the Edinburgh Exhibition in June, and excited all who saw it; it represents a completely new generation of public service vehicles for disabled people.

Each vehicle costs about £22,000, and holds four wheelchair passengers and four companions. I hope British dealers are queuing up for the importing concession! The service operates from 5 am to 1 pm, and is free to passengers, who must be registered users, plus companions. Telebus is able to recover some of the operating costs from user's insurance companies.

Sweden

SWEDEN pioneered the concept of door-to-door public transport for disabled people in the early 1970's, and the facility is now available all over the country. 2.3 per cent of the population has a permit to use special transport services; most of these people are entitled to travel by taxi for the same fare as a bus, but the one in 10 disabled people who cannot use either a bus or a taxi are entitled to use the door-to-door system operated by lift-equipped minibuses.

Journey entitlement varies from authority to authority;



further restricting the number of journeys allowed.

USA

NOTABLE developments have been taking place in the USA. While Sweden's motivation is social welfare, that of the USA is legal/constitutional and is to be found in Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits discrimination against handicapped persons in programmes receiving Federal funding. As the Federal government pays some of the cost of new buses, Section 504 was interpreted as meaning that all new buses must be wheelchair accessible.

The then Secretary for Transportation issued detailed regulations which meant that the provision of Swedish style supplementary systems were not acceptable except in the transitional period. Public

These include both modified vehicles such as the "kneeling bus" (a Leyland National fitted with lowering front near side suspension to bring the floor nearer the pavement height), and vehicles fitted with the "split-step" (the substitution of three to entrance steps for two small ones), which are being pioneered by South Yorkshire PTE; and the latest generation of low floor double deckers such as the Leyland Titan and the MCW Metrobus.

Third, at least three social services departments are involved in projects to provide door-to-door leisure transport for disabled people. Coventry operates a door-to-door service using ambulances at times when they are not required taking people to day centres. Islington operates a Dial

Continued on Page 11

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Do you hope to be a parent?

As disabled parents ourselves, we are proposing to form a group to help, advise and encourage all disabled people who want to experience the joys of parenthood. We aim to include those disabled people who have not yet started along the road to parenthood and those who are already travelling on it. We hope to open the eyes

of the general public, in IYDP, to the fact that disabled people can make as good a job of parenthood as anyone else. We face many different sorts of problems — apart from the practical difficulties which we have in anything we do, we have to break down the prejudices held against us

by many people, including, unfortunately, parts of the medical and social work profession.

Although much is being done to encourage young disabled people to lead as normal a life as possible, it has been overlooked that these young people are growing up and will want to get married and have children. This is where they need the help, understanding and advice of those of us who have already gone through the experience.

We would like to invite any of your readers who are interested in joining our group to write to us, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, please.

**Jenny Estermann (Mrs),
Kay Chehata (Mrs),
2 Marlow Court,
Colindeep Lane,
London NW9 6EB.**

Our help

WE would be very pleased to help any other parents who share our problem if they would contact us. We purchase underclothing from a factory for our handicapped son. They are made of towelling and we find it helps both with absorbing perspiration when he is stuck in a wheelchair all day, and also if he has an accident when we are not quick enough to take him to the toilet.

The firm can supply male or female undergarments and also a well known brand of nappies at very low cost, so if other people have a problem with incontinence they should drop us a line.

**Mrs B. Witty,
44 Ambleside Road,
Bedworth,
Nr Nuneaton, CV12 8RR.**

Congrats from Mr Carter

I HAVE been meaning, for some time past, to write and congratulate you on the consistently high standard and "readability" of your publication, but what has moved me to do so now is the really excellent report in the July issue on the Canterbury Cathedral service for the handicapped.

Having attended the service and, indeed, had some small part in the arrangements, I consider you perfectly capture the atmosphere of that occasion, and the pictures complement the writing very well—I was specially pleased to identify myself in the corner of the one on your front page!

I realise we did well to capture the space in the "News," but I was so impressed by the Director's address from the pulpit that I would have liked to see it reproduced verbatim for the benefit of those of your readers who were unable to be present.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that our group will, by the end of this year, have donated over £1,000 in support of the Cathedral's appeal for funds to improve access (including the installation of a lift to be sited near the Dean's Steps). This seems to us especially appropriate in this International Year of Disabled People, and if any other groups should think so, too, I'm sure that their contributions would be welcomed by the Dean and Chapter at Canterbury Cathedral.

**N. G. CARTER, Mr,
Chairman, Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group.**

Pros and cons of foetal monitors

I HAVE been interested to read in *Spastics News* of local groups raising money to buy foetal monitoring equipment for maternity units and would like to make a plea to any groups considering this, move in the future.

Foetal monitoring is probably of great value with "high risk" mothers but it does have the disadvantage that it is normally used on women lying on their backs or in a reclining position. Unfortunately this position is not only a painful one for many women in labour but has also been described as dangerous to the foetus by several eminent specialists. The reason for this is that when a pregnant woman lies on her back, the weight of the baby rests on the blood supply to the baby and this can interfere with its oxygen supply, perhaps causing the foetal distress the monitor is designed to detect.

Other disadvantages of keeping women in labour lying on their backs are that they tend to require more pain relieving

drugs, which can affect the baby's condition, that labour lasts significantly longer and that the baby is more likely to need forceps delivery than if the mother is encouraged to move round freely.

The answer I would like to suggest to this problem is that money should be spent on buying the kind of monitoring equipment which can be used while the mother is mobile. These machines are at the moment more costly than the conventional equipment, but are more humane as far as the mother is concerned and safer for the baby.

As labour is shortened when the mother is moving around, each machine would be available to more women. I very much hope that any groups raising money for this purpose will consider the evidence carefully and I would be very pleased to discuss it with them further.

**JESSICA HALL,
Manor House West,
Manor Road,
Meldreth, Herts.**

Is she right?

Is Ms Hall right? *Spastics News* sought two expert opinions.

Peter Huntingford, an NHS consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in the Maidstone Health District commented: "This letter is timely and I agree with it. Basically the pendulum has been swinging too far in the wrong direction for a long time and it needs to be brought back to the middle."

Dr Donald Gough, consultant psychiatrist, said:

"On the evidence she provides I wouldn't disagree with her. However, it must be remembered that obstetricians use the equipment because it provides data and they may use a particular type used by women lying on their back for the reason that they prefer it rather than because of finance. Insofar as it is more humane and safer for the baby than the alternative monitoring system advocated by Jessica Hall should be seriously considered."

LETTERS

A sour note ...

ON a recent visit to the Queen Elizabeth Hall I was informed on arrival that I could not be admitted unless I had a helper with me. This is because I happen to be a disabled person confined to a wheel-

chair. This appears to be a consequence of various fire regulations and is common to many concert halls.

I feel quite angry about this as it would appear to discriminate against disabled people in an extremely blatant manner. In 1981, the Year of Disabled People, surely something can be done about this. This is a very important issue as more disabled people are being encouraged to be independent. Furthermore, I would point out that any rule is arbitrary. Many disabled people are extremely mobile and it is reasonable to assume that if someone has managed to get to the hall without assistance he should be able to manage. I cannot imagine there is a big problem of people being left at concerts who cannot cope.

**Roger Dowling (Mr),
7 Andrew Close,
Wokingham,
Berks.**

Ways of getting there

Continued from Page 10

Ride service using two converted Dodge (Simca) 1100 VF2 "Hi-Top" vans, while Stockport has introduced the Easy-Go Travel service, with a converted mini van providing a door-to-door service for Stockport residents within a 10-mile radius of the town centre.

Costs

Fourth, Reading Council Transport Department responded enthusiastically when the local Council for Voluntary Service asked if they would pay the 25 per cent of the costs necessary for a Dial-a-Ride scheme to qualify for Urban Aid money. The result is that four tail-lift Mercedes minibuses are about to enter service in Reading; they will be painted in Borough Council livery just like the town's buses, so that they appear to be what they are—public transport vehicles rather than vehicles for a dependent group. They will provide a door-to-door service anywhere in Reading for townspeople unable to use ordinary buses. This scheme is clearly a vital breakthrough in this country. It will be closely monitored by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

Fifth, a number of large coaches adapted to carry wheelchair passengers are appearing, from private, municipal and state undertakings.

Mobility

ADAPT will be closely following these developments and seeking to persuade other local authorities to bring in schemes to give mobility to disabled people, but we fear many authorities will continue to plead lack of finance. It is obvious that most areas will continue to be without door-to-door transport for disabled people until central government decides to give local authorities the duty to provide it, and gives them the money to do so. What a wonderful contribution to IYDP it would be if the Department of Transport and the DHSS were to do this!

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GILES KING is almost 12, and hoping to start at the Society's Thomas Delarue School after Christmas, and he needs a tricycle. His mother wonders if any readers of *Spastics News* can help. Giles is 4ft — too tall for a child's tricycle and not big enough yet for the adult version. He is very mobile but cannot balance a two-wheeler. Mrs King says a tricycle could be collected in the Home Counties. Contact her at The Hermitage, Park View Road, Woldingham, Surrey CR3 2DJ. Woldingham £247.

FOOTWEAR: Foot Care for Disabled Children Seminar: September 29, 1981, at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The Department of Family and Community Medicine, Newcastle upon Tyne, jointly with the Society of Chiropodists, and the Disabled Living Foundation.

A seminar has been arranged under the Chairmanship of Professor J. H. Walker to discuss the problems of footwear and foot care requirements of the disabled child—which will be of particular interest to all professions involved in the care of disabled children, whether they are in local authorities, the health service or voluntary bodies.

Full details: Miss A. Corradine, The Medical School, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU. Tel Newcastle upon Tyne 28511.

PAUL Shevlin is 32, in full-time employment at a local factory, although his disability affects his left arm and leg. He likes darts, dances and going to football matches and

would like to hear from any young lady who would like to be his pen-friend. Paul lives at 55 Wadgate Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

A NEW course aimed at reducing stress in residential care, organised by The Spastics Society, will be held at Castle Priory College, October 1-3 and November 19-21, 1981. (Attendance at both weekends will be required.)

Programme director is Jack Dunham, lecturer in Psychology at the University of Bath. The course will be of interest for residential staff at all levels.

Places limited, so early application is desirable. Cost: Tuition £50, residence £60 (single room supplement £2 per night).

Applications, which should be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of £10, should be sent to: The Principal, Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE.

GROWING Old — Disaster or Challenge? September 21-25, 1981. This course aims to examine the needs of elderly people, including the frail and handicapped; the provisions available in the UK in comparison with other European countries, the ageing process and some positive measures to increase and improve the quality of physical, social, psychological, spiritual and intellectual life of individuals. Open to all professions and members of voluntary groups serving the elderly as well as to members of the general public. Tuition: £50. Residence: £60. Applications to the Principal, Castle Priory College, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of £10.

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● **MONARCH** of all he surveys, Barry John, the Mog with the Mostest, poses to purrfection for the Spastics News camera. And he's feline fine about his chances of winning the competition by more than a cat's whisker.

Purrfectly obvious he's a winner...

IT IS not every rat-catcher that gets to enter a beauty contest but its purrfectly obvious why Barry John's in the line-up. For The Spastics Society's champion rodent operative, named for the Welsh rugby star, is absolutely the cat's whiskers. He's also an aristocrat — even the Society's patron, the Duchess of Kent, couldn't resist stroking him when she toured headquarters.

It's doubtful if the judges of the West London Observer's "Toffs and Tramps" competition will have to paws to consider their verdict. And, who knows, he might go even further if there was a nationwide top cat contest?

Anyway, if Barry John doesn't win the Whiskas food hamper first prize, Tony Ridgley, of the post room, who entered him, reckons it would be nothing short of a cat-astrophe.

And as for the Society's staff, who are greeted by Barry's cheerful purrs as they arrive for work each day — they would be fur-ious!

Top Tina

TINA Sharp, 14, a pupil of the Society's Craig-y-parc School in Wales, has received a commendation from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts for her entry in an essay competition on "Friendship in Guiding."

Marathon cyclist

Continued from Page 1

international repute. Since 1963 he has ridden the length of the Americas, the full length of the European and African continents and the widest girths of both South and North America. He has spent two months cycling in Mauritius and Madagascar in preparation for the trip.

Ian's latest anecdote from Madagascar, which is written

Eat up! There's a charity bounty on those Heinz labels

HEINZ, the tinned food giant, has come up with a charity fund-raising idea which can only be described as souper. . . .

Next month the company launches a £½ million appeal on behalf of 12 national charities, including The Spastics Society, and before it starts the firm is donating £10,000 to each of them. There will be special labels on every single line that Heinz produces, but even those labels without the appeal will be worth a 1p to the

charity indicated by the purchaser.

Heinz customers can choose one or several of their favourite charities to support, and it is the largest promotion of its kind ever launched.

There will be collection boxes in local stores, and Heinz will pay for collection so that every penny raised will go to the lucky dozen. The appeal will close at the end of February, 1982, but shoppers can

begin collecting Heinz labels straight away for their favourite charity.

With the experience gained from running previous appeals, Heinz is confident of reaching the target of £½ million, which is why £120,000 is being distributed before the start. Heinz wanted to help as many charities as possible, but to spread the net too wide would have been to reduce the share, and it was decided to limit it to the 12 chosen for maxi-

mum financial benefit. They are all nationally known and particularly concerned with people.

In addition to The Spastics Society, the charities are Action Research for the Crippled Child, The British Heart Foundation, Dr Barnardo's, Help the Aged, The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, The National Children's Home, Oxfam, Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Save the Children Fund, which together, Heinz feels, answer the widest

possible community need. So in addition to receiving cash, each charity will discover just how close they are to the hearts of Heinz customers throughout the country!

If ordinary labels rather than the 90 million being specially printed bear no indications of a preferred charity the money will be divided between the 12.

So from now until next spring every Heinz can mean an awful lot to The Spastics Society whether it contains the beanz, spaghetti rings, oxtail soup, or any other family favourite. Just remember the destination for the label is not the waste bin but the nearest collection box.

Open a can of Heinz a day and half a million pounds will soon be on its way — to where it's urgently needed.

Mother's appeal: 'If only we could have some peace of mind'

Continued from Page 1

and shut in his room.

Mr and Mrs Curtis eventually got a meeting with the Social Service staff to discuss the problems, in particular Duncan's habit of roaming.

According to Mrs Curtis, a senior social worker said: "Well if he gets killed, at least he will have done so when he had his freedom."

Mrs Curtis recalled: "My husband and I were lost for words — what can you say to a remark like that."

That was in May 1978 and notes were taken at the meeting for the record. At the same meeting Mr and Mrs Curtis were told that Duncan could be trained in three years.

Choice

"We had no choice but to give it a try. Now the three years have passed but there is no evidence of Duncan being trained." For another major complaint the Curtis' have is the personal care that Duncan is given. Mrs Curtis claims that Duncan has to be bathed every time he returns home because he is unable to clean himself adequately after using the toilet so that dirt congeals.

On a recent occasion when he came home in a "filthy" condition she says "I was so angry. I complained about the state Duncan was in . . . but we seemed to be continually battering our heads against a brick wall, al-



Duncan Curtis

though the deputy officer in charge of the hostel said he would make a report."

Said Mrs Curtis: "Doncaster Social Services lay claim to the best provisions in the country for the mentally handicapped — the accommodation may be there but the administration leaves a lot to be desired and as far as we are concerned should be called the UN social services."

Mrs Curtis added: "If only we could have some peace of mind and that Duncan could be given a chance somewhere to integrate, we love Duncan very much and like to have him home when we can, but it is impossible to have him home permanently and I don't know how long we can cope with the situation we are in."

In his quieter moments Mrs Curtis described Dun-

can as "a loving affectionate boy" but he is a six footer and Mrs Curtis said: "On one occasion he had a temper tantrum that was so violent my husband had to restrain him for four hours—in the end we had to call the Police."

The recent incident involving the old man led to Duncan being reprimanded by the Police with no further action being taken. Following the attempt to set light to the work centre he was involved in a scuffle with another boy. A doctor was sent for who advised Duncan should be kept quiet. When the officer in charge went to check on him Duncan jumped on him and, said Mrs Curtis, "got him by the neck." As a result the doctor was called again and he was given a dose of largactil.

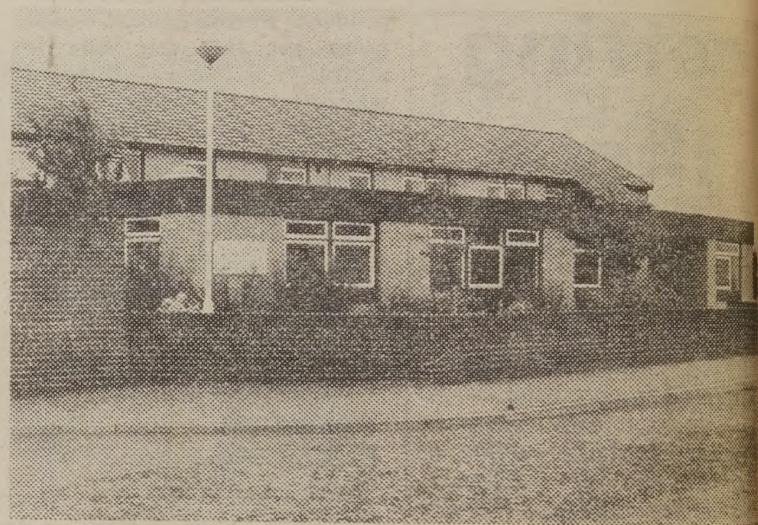
He has been seen by a psychiatrist from St Catherine's Mental Hospital who reduced the phenobarbitone medication for epilepsy control in case that was the cause.

Problems

Mrs Curtis complains that in addition to the more serious problems, Duncan's new clothing with name tapes in go missing, he frequently wears others' clothing and sees his own on other people, and that he had five pyjama coats and no trousers in his room.

At Ravensfield Lodge many of Mrs Curtis' allegations were refuted by a member of staff. The problem of odd clothing arose because the residents, 12 males aged 16-60, and 12 females, were encouraged to be independent and as they drew their clean clothes from the utility room mix-ups occurred but were soon sorted out.

Duncan was still in his pyjamas in his room following the fire incident which is the normal "form of correction" — and "he's not too pleased at all. It is the second time it's happened but he's not locked in. He's not the most diffi-



RAVENSFIELD Lodge, where Duncan has lived for the last three years.

cult — we've got others — they wouldn't be here if they weren't difficult, but there's no place available at other hostels.

"Duncan's happy here between his off-days. He's had a lot of help and advice from staff but he won't listen or take advice."

The hostel authorities are adamant that Duncan has a bath every day and that because of his epilepsy it is always supervised. And that because of his poor hand control he is assisted in his personal care after using the toilet.

Doncaster Social Services meet again this month to decide Duncan's future but for the Curtis' the last three years have been a nightmare of lost hope and opportunity for the son they dearly love, despite the strain that it has put on the family.

John Bromley, Doncaster's Deputy Director of Social Services told Spastics News.

"The decision taken in the past to place Duncan where he is, and not where Mrs Curtis wants him to be, was gone into by us very carefully and based primarily on what would be best for him."

"Now, as to the recent episodes we have already set in motion the gathering of more advice as to whether we are doing the right thing or if we should make any changes."

"Colleagues in the area health authority are being brought in, and in the light

of what they say we may reconsider. It may be that we will try to make the placement more successful or to move Duncan, but we can't judge until the facts are brought together. We obviously hope to work in conjunction with parents and relatives and I accept sometimes we take a view that's not what they want. But we do go into it very carefully if it's not what they want.

"We are as aware of financial restraints as any local authority in these times of cut-backs but that was not a direct factor as far as I can see. We have no firm policy of moving people back into our area as a matter of administrative convenience if they are being cared for happily elsewhere."

SPASTICS NEWS

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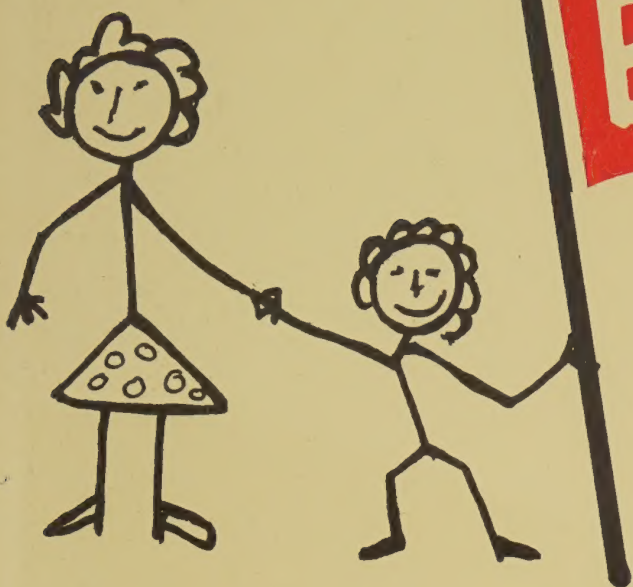
Aids show

THE Visiting Aids Centre, a mobile exhibition trailer enables handicapped people who may not be able to venture far from their homes to see what helpful aids are on the market.

The Centre will be in the forecourt of the Town Hall, Darlington, from September 7 to 12 and from September 15 to 18. Open daily from 1000 to 1330 and 1420 to 1800.

on toilet paper due to the absence of anything more suitable, says: "The people find it terribly funny to see me riding a bike here. I don't know if it's the different kind of bike or me, but they do laugh. I have a feeling that many laugh at anything strange and unusual — I am certainly that!"

Sponsorship forms are also available from John Tizard at The Spastics Society.



Benefits for Kids

age

0



Child Benefit.
One Parent Benefit.
Supplementary Benefit (Additions & Single Payments).
Housing Benefit.
Family Income Supplement.
Health & Welfare Benefits (eg Free prescriptions, dental/optical treatment, free milk, vitamins etc).
N.H.S. Card for your baby.
Enquire at Local Authority about registering your child's disability.
Apply to Local Education Authority for an assessment of your child's Special Needs.

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Attendance Allowance.
Invalid Care Allowance or Home Responsibility Protection.
Vaccine Damage Payment.
Apply to Family Fund.
Orange Badge Scheme.
Disabled Persons Railcard.
London Black-Cabs Taxicard.
Community Transport Schemes.
Local Authority Concessionary Fares Schemes.
Local Authority Grant for Home Adaptations.
Rate Relief.
Apply to Local Education Authority for further assessment of your child's Special Needs.

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Mobility Allowance.
Contact "Motability".
Vehicle Excise Duty Exemption
Check eligibility for continuation of Free Milk.
Starting School? - Check on Education Benefits eg Free school meals, help with uniforms etc.

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If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the Local Education Authority MUST re-assess him/her between the ages of 12½ & 14½.

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At 16, your child can claim Social Security benefits in his/her own right.
Re-apply for Attendance Allowance.
Apply for transfer of Mobility Allowance.
Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension, OR, (after November 1984) Severe Disablement Allowance.

KEY TO CHART

Benefits available from the D.H.S.S.
Grants, Concessions etc from other agencies.

"Benefits for Kids"

A full guide is available from
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
12 Park Crescent,
London W1N 4EQ
Price: 50p for postage and packing

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